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Tuesday, March 14, 2006

To the Clemency Board:

**Regarding Clemency Petition for Barry Massey**

I am currently a teacher at Monroe High School in Monroe, Washington. Since 1983 I have taught U. S. History and Contemporary Social Issues at the school.

Beginning in 1994 my students have had the opportunity to participate in the Youth Program at the Washington State Reformatory. This program allows students direct contact with prison inmates. Men on the Inmate Panel tell their stories and answer questions regarding any and all topics. The Inmate Panel emphasizes choices and the consequences of those choices, important topics for young people preparing for adulthood and life after high school. Students leave the experience with a new perspective on life and the need to make good choices.

Barry Massey has been a vital part of the reformatory's Youth Program. I have listened to Barry on numerous occasions over the past twelve years and have always been impressed by his honesty, sincerity, and his ability to communicate effectively with my students. Barry has been able to articulate the issues surrounding his own incarceration and crime and punishment, in general, using specific examples from his own experiences. His time with my students has always had a very real and meaningful impact on them and remained with them long after they've left the prison and graduated Monroe High School. On visits back, several graduates have asked about Barry, always wanting to know how he's doing in his life.

I have had the pleasure of watching Barry's personal growth. As he has grown and matured, I was able to see an angry young person change into someone who appears to have a deep faith in his ability to handle any situation in life, a remarkable transformation for someone who has spent over twenty years within the prison system. As a teacher of young adults, I have been impressed with Barry's ability to not just survive, but to develop into a thoughtful and insightful adult, giving back to other young adults in the hope that they can avoid the terrible mistakes of his own past.

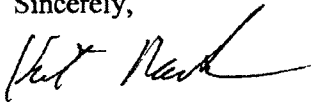
It is my understanding that participants on the Inmate Panel and in the Youth Program are selected by the inmates themselves which tells me that Barry Massey has also shown incredible growth to those around him at the reformatory. He has been able to demonstrate his ability to accept responsibility for his actions and articulate the importance of his future choices.

Barry Massey  
Clemency Request  
March 14, 2006

I appreciate your consideration of Barry Massey's clemency petition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at home (360-794-6279) or school (360-863-4444x5000).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Nowadnick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kurt Nowadnick  
Teacher